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DISPLACED CHILDREN AND ORPHANS FUND

PORTFOLIO SYNOPSIS 2006–2007

Children play in the yard of *Beghurebi* shelter for street children in Tbilisi, Georgia, as part of the *Rebuilding Lives* Project implemented by Save the Children. Since September 2004, the *Rebuilding Lives* Project has assisted over 3,500 street and at-risk children and their families, helping to ensure children's well-being and providing education and other support. Thanks to the program, many children were able to join mainstream education, their families gained new skills to better care for their children, and the Government of Georgia placed the issues of child welfare and protection prominently on the national reforms agenda. Cover photo courtesy of USAID/Georgia

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INTRODUCTION

Since its inception in 1989, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF) has invested more than \$160 million to improve the well-being of vulnerable children, their families, and communities in more than 40 countries in the developing world. Projects funded by DCOF traditionally focus on the following:

- Reintegrating at-risk or unaccompanied children into families or family-like situations and ensuring community inclusion
- Promoting and strengthening policies and support systems that foster improved well-being of children
- Strengthening economic status and capacities of vulnerable families, adolescents, and communities

DCOF is working in more than 25 countries to support the improved well-being of child soldiers and other children affected by armed conflict, children at risk of being trafficked, and children whose families are at risk of dissolution.

DCOF has taken a critical look at its past experience and in response has begun to develop new approaches and activities designed to (a) increase the economic status and income-generating capacities of vulnerable families and (b) improve its understanding of the dynamics between improved economic opportunities and the well-being of children.

To that end, DCOF has put into place two exciting programs—one country based, the other globally oriented to significantly affect target families and communities and to improve the capacities of poverty alleviation and economic development strategies to assist children. The recently awarded global Supporting Transformation by Reducing Insecurity and Vulnerability with Economic Strengthening (STRIVE) project and DCOF-funded activities in Nepal exemplify that goal.

This publication contains descriptions of programs supported by the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund.

CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY CRISIS

A GOOD PRACTICE–POLICY CHANGE INITIATIVE

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Columbia University, Program on Forced Migration and Health, Mailman School of Public Health

FUNDING PERIOD

September 2005–September 2008

AMOUNT

\$1,000,000

PURPOSE

Improve the care and protection of children affected by armed conflict and natural disaster.

- Completed the first phase of a Delphi review of practitioners
- Convened two workshops to disperse expert knowledge on child care and protection
- Analyzed the utility of UNICEF’s Protective Environment Framework in the context of Darfur
- Developed and piloted a new assessment methodology in northern Uganda to measure incidences of gender-based violence
- Developed and hosted a Methods Advisory Group to elevate the quality and rigor of the care and protection of children by advising on study design, development of indicators, assessment methodology, and ethical considerations
- Drafted a review of the knowledge base of programming for children associated with armed conflict that has been gathered in the 10 years since the initiation of the 1997 Cape Town Principles
- Designed methodological protocols to use in upcoming evaluations in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Uganda

Addressing the needs of children for care and protection is a vital element in the process of recovery and redevelopment of fragile states, particularly those affected by crisis. In crisis-affected countries, there is a need for programs that address children's physical security as well as their physical and emotional well-being in the face of overwhelming loss.

To date, organizations seeking to develop programs to address such needs have been hampered by the lack of documentation on the effectiveness of previous interventions. Limited evidence exists to support the efficacy of current approaches to preventing physical harm and abuse to children, to providing psychological and social support or crisis education for children, or to creating and sustaining livelihood endeavors for individuals, families, or communities. Agencies are often unable to establish sufficient consensus regarding their goals, strategies, or outcomes—and donors hesitate to invest in projects that lack documentation on successful precedents.

Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Columbia University, through the Care and Protection of Children in Countries Affected by Crisis initiative, is testing methodologies for identifying critical child care

and protection needs and for compiling data on effective child care and protection programs. Researchers, paying attention to the local in-country definitions of children's well-being and ability to function, will develop criteria for gauging the effectiveness of interventions. Researchers will then use the information gathered from those activities to recommend best practices for designing, evaluating, and implementing child-focused programs. Through its initiative, the university seeks to address challenges that projects face during the implementation process, including scalability, community empowerment, gender equity, measurable results, human capacity building, and sustainability.



Columbia University Evaluation Sites

SUPPORTING TRANSFORMATION BY REDUCING INSECURITY AND VULNERABILITY WITH ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING (STRIVE)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Academy for Educational Development (AED)

FUNDING PERIOD

September 2007–September 2012

AMOUNT

\$3,342,077

PURPOSE

Through multiyear field projects, identify and demonstrate effective means of sustainably improving the economic circumstances of orphans and vulnerable children and of the families and communities that care for them.

OBJECTIVES

The following key principles will provide the foundation for designing projects, conducting research, and assessing impact.

- Utilize specialists in both programming for vulnerable children and economic-strengthening interventions.
- Conduct market studies as an integral part of the project design (including consideration of the physical, social, and human resources of vulnerable children and their caregivers to enable the development of effective links between the needs of the markets and the integration of economic activities into competitive, growing market sectors).
- Base all project activities on causal models collectively developed by the implementing partners that clearly articulate connections between a given project and its assumed benefits for orphans and vulnerable children.
- Encourage sustainability through program activities that are components of an economically viable model for reducing vulnerability at the level of the child.
- Design activities to truly reach and aid the vulnerable, relying on a participatory approach in working with communities.
- Ensure the appropriateness of economic-strengthening activities by selecting programs that are not only market driven but also appropriate for the capacity, context, and culture of the vulnerable children and caregivers.

SPORT AND PLAY PROJECTS

TEACHING LIFE SKILLS TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

CARE USA (through the CORE Initiative)

FUNDING PERIOD

May 2004–December 2008

AMOUNT

\$4,231,786

PURPOSE

Introduce in communities the use of sports and play as developmental tools for children and youth, provide health education, and encourage children and youth to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (SINCE PROJECT INCEPTION)

- Trained 300 coaches and reached approximately 20,000 youth over the life of the project
- Created an extensive training curriculum specifically addressing youth and HIV/AIDS
- Provided mentoring and capacity-building support by focusing on organizational development and program management to two subgrantees: Right to Play and Grassroot Soccer (the former assuming greater responsibility for conducting its own activities, such as the project design workshop in Ghana and a midterm evaluation)
- Produced a best practices curriculum for youth to address trauma and resiliency through sport-based programs (under the Grassroot Soccer subgrant)
- Provided resiliency activities to more than 600 students through Grassroot Soccer

The CORE Initiative has been a five-year, global, USAID-funded program that addressed the causes and consequences of HIV/AIDS by strengthening the capacity of community and faith-based organizations working to prevent HIV/AIDS, reduce stigma, and provide care and support for those living with HIV or AIDS, including orphans and other vulnerable children. Partnering with CARE USA, which led the initiative, were the International Center for Research on Women; the International HIV/AIDS Alliance; The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Communication Programs; and the World Council of Churches.

Since 2004, USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund has supported CORE Initiative's capacity-building work with the subgrantees Right to Play (RTP) and Grassroot Soccer. In 2007, CORE focused on organizational development and program management issues. Both organizations work internationally, using specially designed sport and play activities as means to connect with vulnerable children and communities and to introduce skills and practices to improve health and prevent disease.

Another USAID-funded program, Teaching Life Skills to Vulnerable Children and Youth, has worked with vulnerable children and youth—particularly orphans and former child combatants—as well as with coaches, teachers, and other adult community mentors in Mozambique, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone.

RTP's SportHealth program in Kigali, Rwanda, has used the power of sport to bring people together to teach children and youth, from 5 to 19 years of age, the importance of vaccinations, physical fitness, and prevention of HIV/

AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. In Sierra Leone, RTP's SportWorks Community-Based Reintegration Project has taught life skills to former child combatants and vulnerable children through specially designed sport and play activities. The program also trains and involves community members as coaches and leaders. In Mozambique, the RTP project provides adult volunteers and younger program participants with information on HIV/AIDS.

Grassroot Soccer implements resiliency projects for orphans and other vulnerable children in South Africa and Zambia. It operates on the premise that children learn best from people they respect. The organization therefore taps professional soccer players and other role models to work with the program. Grassroot Soccer also uses youth from the program as peer educators, and it encourages the involvement of entire communities to reinforce the healthy messages that children receive through the program.



AFGHANISTAN

ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) Consortium for the Psychosocial Care and Protection of Children (Christian Children's Fund, Inc. [CCF]; International Rescue Committee [IRC]; and Save the Children Federation, Inc. [SC/US])

FUNDING PERIOD

April 2003–June 2008

AMOUNT

\$6,744,331

PURPOSE

Reduce the physical, social, and emotional threat to war-affected children and families.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established Child Protection Action Networks in six provinces
- Enrolled 48,000 children and youth in non-formal education, including literacy courses, early childhood development classes, and community-based schools
- Established community-based libraries benefiting more than 100 communities
- Integrated more than 70 children with disabilities into mainstream government schools
- Taught more than 6,400 children about basic health and hygiene
- Established 260 active community bodies with 3,300 members to address threats to children's well-being, constructed 75 safe play areas and green spaces, and established 175 sports teams
- Mentored 8,900 people—government workers, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders—in child protection
- Improved the knowledge and delivery of children's health services by distributing to communities child-friendly health and education services surveys for children to identify and prioritize the reasons that they do not access services, with clinics and schools delivering more child-friendly services as a result

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- Established 40 health posts and trained 80 community health workers, who have been transferred to the posts
- Provided access to livelihood support for 950 families through income-generating activities and microfinance
- Facilitated community-selected civic work projects—40 wells constructed, well rings for 70 wells installed, 25 bridges constructed, 120 garbage-filled ditches covered, 25 culverts constructed, and 2,300 meters of road graveled—benefiting 140 communities



Despite considerable improvements in the lives of many Afghans since the fall of the Taliban in November 2001, a significant proportion of the population continues to live in conditions of squalor, poverty, and deprivation and is subject to all of the prevailing problems such conditions incur. Almost all Afghan children suffer the consequences of war, including displacement, loss of homes and loved ones, war-related injury, and hunger. They require significant improvements in their basic living conditions and emotional support systems.

In February 2003, USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund awarded a \$2 million grant

to the NGO Consortium for the Psychosocial Care and Protection of Children to assist particularly vulnerable Afghan children, including orphans, children living with disabilities, working children, and former child soldiers. Since then, project teams have worked with communities and government workers in four regions (SC/US in the northern and central regions, IRC in the western region, and CCF/CFA in the northeast) to identify threats to the physical, psychological, emotional, and social well-being of children; to provide assistance for particularly vulnerable children and families; and to advocate for government action on child protection issues.

Local project partners serve as regional focal points for Afghanistan's innovative Child Protection Action Network (CPAN), which acts as a referral network for child protection issues. Partners also host regular meetings with other NGOs and government authorities to tackle a range of issues related to child protection, including fears about child trafficking, early and forced marriage, juvenile justice, and—in a different vein—road safety.

On a wide geographic scale, Consortium partners use sustainable community-based activities to foster the well-being, protection, and development of Afghan children and youth. At the outset, the Consortium hosted community meetings in which more than 3,700 children and youth identified real or potential threats to themselves, their families, and their communities. On the basis of the findings from those meetings,

the Consortium funded 300 community-based children and youth groups to serve as the focal point for ongoing child protection activities in target communities. Partners work with children and their communities to encourage children to solve problems creatively.

This project also works to strengthen government-sponsored livelihood and social protection programs. Project activities have supported the National Solidarity Program in reinforcing community structures, promoting participation and rural development, and providing microcredit and basic health services to rural populations. The project further supports the government of Afghanistan in its efforts to promote basic education for all and to revive the diversity of Afghan culture by engaging children and their communities in sporting, cultural, and media events.

AZERBAIJAN

COMMUNITY-BASED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT PROGRAM

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Save the Children Federation, Inc., with subgrantee United Aid for Azerbaijan

FUNDING PERIOD

September 2004–September 2008

AMOUNT

\$2,456,692

PURPOSE

Establish and demonstrate the viability of community-based programs that support vulnerable children and families as an alternative to existing models of institutional-based care.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Created three Children and Family Support Centers in Goranboy, Mingchevir, and Shuvalan, fully staffed with trained personnel, which served 1,711 vulnerable children and 268 families during 2006 with a range of family support services and inclusive child and youth activities
- Mobilized citizens in the local community to support the work of the three Children and Family Support Centers by means of community groups and parents' organizations
- Facilitated government assumption of the funding and management of the centers
- Participated in the government's National Coordination Council, which is responsible for leading the implementation of the state-run program on deinstitutionalization and alternative care from 2006 to 2010
- Established a formal partnership with UNICEF to pilot the national child welfare reforms, case management, and networking methodologies in the three areas where Save the Children has its centers
- Established the National Child Protection Network, a national advocacy group comprising international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) and NGOs
- Organized the first national conference and NGO fair on the concerns of children with special needs, in partnership with UNICEF;

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- NGO Alliance; and the State Committee on Women, Children, and Family Issues
- Worked closely with the Commission on Minors to identify children at risk of institutionalization in Goranboy, Mingechevir, and Shuvalan and to develop packages of care for community-based family support



The Republic of Azerbaijan is emerging from a decade of economic and social crisis. Today, more than 14 years after the start of a territorial dispute with Armenia over the South Caucasus region of Nagorno-Karabakh, nearly 1 in 10 people in Azerbaijan remain refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs). An estimated 200,000 IDPs are children, and one in four street children are IDPs or refugees. Even as families and children face the challenges of social and economic development, the government remains crippled by a continued reliance on Soviet-era social policy that has left one-third of the population in poverty and another third in extreme poverty.

As the social and economic environment has deteriorated, institutions that traditionally served children deemed “defective” by the state have increasingly accepted children from displaced, poor, or otherwise vulnerable families. Although institutionalization is perceived as an acceptable coping mechanism in Azeri society, children in those facilities suffer from social stigmatization and face significant delays in their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Young people often leave institutions largely unprepared for independent living. World Bank research on similar institutions and structures in Russia has shown that as many as 1 in 3 children who leave residential care will

become homeless, 1 in 5 percent will be arrested for criminal activity, and 1 in 10 will commit suicide.

Despite progressive improvement of the economic situation in Azerbaijan in recent years, the number of children sent to institutions has increased. Among the myriad reasons for the increase are the absence of trained professionals who can assist families in identifying the best solutions for the care for children; the absence of community-based alternatives to institutionalization for children deprived of parental care, children with disabilities, street children, and children with behavioral problems; and the lack of understanding among communities on how to care for children in need. In 2007, approximately 22,000 children were being hosted in 66 institutions in Azerbaijan, including baby homes and orphanages, sanatoriums, boarding schools, and homes for children with disabilities.

Since 2004, USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund has partnered with Save the Children Azerbaijan to address the needs of marginalized children who have been or are at risk of being institutionalized or living

on the street—including IDPs and refugees, children with disabilities, children and families in extreme poverty, and children from broken homes or female-headed households. Working in three locations—Mingechevir, Goranboy, and Shuvalan—Save the Children's Community-Based Children's Support Program has modeled community-based social services for vulnerable children to prevent family breakdown and admission of children into institutional care.

During 2006, the program created three Children and Family Support Centers in Goranboy, Mingechevir, and Shuvalan. Each center is fully staffed with personnel trained in needs assessment; case management; principles of child development, positive parenting, and youth support; and community-based rehabilitation. The program's work continues by assisting communities in mobilizing resources to identify vulnerable children and to build child-friendly communities. The program also works with the national government in advocating for the centers to be included within an overall government framework to deinstitutionalize children and provide alternative care for them.

BELARUS

SUPPORTING ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN BELARUS

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Christian Children's Fund, Inc. (CCF)

FUNDING PERIOD

September 2005–September 2009

AMOUNT

\$1,997,686

PURPOSE

Reduce the number of children in Belarus who are being institutionalized in state-administered orphanages and boarding schools.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Trained social service providers specializing in community-based services in the target communities of Orsha, Zhodino, and Kobrin, who in turn established new prevention services (including day care and respite services for children with disabilities, self-support groups for their parents, integrated play groups, programs to enhance parenting skills, and support services for children with disabilities provided by youth volunteer groups) and reached 389 parents and 642 children, including more than 20 children with disabilities, with those services
- Awarded \$50,000 to state services and NGOs to implement five 12-month projects aimed at solving key local problems that lead to the institutionalization of orphaned and abandoned children
- Supplied 12 state-run child care institutions with furniture, equipment, and supplies to improve the quality of the service delivery
- Created Community Advisory Boards (CABs) in the three target communities, which included representatives of local government, NGOs, parents, community members, and mass media, to function as work groups to address problems related to child welfare in their respective communities

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- Created a Technical Assistance Task Force in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, which developed procedures for addressing the situation of children living in abusive situations—an important piece of child welfare legislation that can be promulgated throughout Belarus to safeguard the rights of a child and family in cases of possible abuse or neglect
- Partnered with UNICEF to assist the government in developing a national system to track children



UNICEF reports that more than 32,000 children live without parental care in Belarus. And approximately 12,000 of those children reside in state institutions. Eighty percent of those institutionalized children are social orphans—their parents have not died but are unable or unwilling to care for them. Many social orphans have been placed in institutions because parental rights have been terminated as a consequence of abuse, neglect, or other family problems that put the children at risk. Despite modest successes in the development of the child welfare system in Belarus, the number of children in institutions quadrupled during the 1990s.

Since 2005, USAID has supported the Christian Children's Fund project Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus, a three-year, three-phase program that aims to prevent the institutionalization of children in selected communities in Belarus by supporting a cultural environment conducive to at-home family care and the movement of children currently living in institutions to less restrictive environments. The project enlists children, families, community-based services, regional and national governments, and universities in efforts to ensure that alternative methods of care for institutionalized children are formulated as part of a clearly defined child welfare system.

During 2006, the project focused its activities in the three target communities of Orsha, Zhodino, and Kobrin. There, families worked with project-trained social service professionals to keep families and children together or to reintegrate children within their families. The program also strengthened the settings in which services can be provided. It equipped three training rooms in public schools to conduct trainings on effective parenting, health education, life skills education, and other programs; purchased appropriate furniture for day care and respite care institutions for children with disabilities; equipped two “social apartments”

to train abandoned and orphaned children in basic domestic skills; and purchased equipment for two sewing workshops for a boarding school for orphaned children in Zhodino and one woodcraft workshop for a shelter in Kobrin.

Another facet of the project’s mandate is to provide small grants to in-country organizations that work to develop models of alternative care for children in need, to create self-help groups for parents who are substance abusers, and to establish community-based consultation and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities and their parents.

BRAZIL

ENTER JOVEM PROGRAM

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

American Institutes for Research (AIR)

FUNDING PERIOD

September 2003–September 2007

AMOUNT

\$3,199,998

PURPOSE

Increase the employability of disadvantaged youth in the northeastern cities of Salvador, Recife, and Fortaleza by offering training in job readiness and basic information and communication technology skills.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (SINCE PROJECT INCEPTION)

- Assisted more than 3,000 youth in completing a basic training module in math and language, computer, and job-hunting skills, with more than 700 youth receiving certificates of accomplishment, 820 being formally hired, and 79 percent remaining in their jobs for more than three months
- Awarded, through the Bahia state innovation program, a total of \$80,000 to four youth entrepreneurial projects to start businesses— involving a total of six ongoing businesses with more than 20 young entrepreneurs
- Facilitated the election of 35 young people by their peers to form the Bahia and the Pernambuco States Youth Committees, which evalu-



ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

ate the program; hold meetings with businesspeople to secure job positions; and represent project beneficiaries at discussion forums, conferences, and other events

- Enrolled more than 100 youth with disabilities in the basic training module, with 21 youth having been hired and 81 percent of youth remaining in their jobs for more than three months

With an estimated 177 million people, Brazil's population ranks fifth in the world and largest in Latin America. Managing a population of that size presents challenges, particularly as an estimated one in three people (53 million) lives below the international poverty line. Data from 2005 indicate an unemployment rate that tops 12.9 percent nationally and is up to 25 percent in some major urban centers. In 2005, out of the 8.9 million unemployed Brazilians, 4.4 million were between 15 and 24 years old.

Brazil is one of the most economically stratified countries; approximately 10 percent of its population controls most of the wealth. The majority of the population is poorly educated and cannot afford quality education, computers, or Internet connectivity. Moreover, employers often discriminate against the poor.

In September 2003, USAID began funding the American Institutes for Research program Enter Jovem to create job opportunities for disadvantaged youth. Enter Jovem has addressed digital and social

exclusion by qualifying youth in basic information communication and technology (ICT) skills, while increasing their opportunities to enter the labor force.

The American Institutes for Research program works with the well-established local organizations Comitês para Democratização da Informática (Committee for Democracy in Information Technology) and Instituto Brasileiro de Administração para o Desenvolvimento (Brazilian Institute of Administration for Development) to offer a unique approach to improving the employability of disadvantaged youth between the ages of 14 and 21 years. The consortium program has strengthened the network of 33 community-based NGOs working on youth employability issues in Salvador, Recife, and Fortaleza.

Program data indicate that the program is reaching some of the most marginalized and excluded groups in Brazil. For example, approximately 68 percent of the youth served are Afro-descents; this number climbs to 86 percent in Bahia alone.

Many of them come from families with only one wage earner who earns no more than about US\$350 per month to support a typical household of five or more people.

The success of the program lies in its orientation to market demand: training is based on employers' needs. By securing remedial education in math and Portuguese, developing job-hunting and interview skills, and improving their ICT skills, youth are empowered to seek opportunities that will allow them to realize their aspirations for a better future. Moreover, the program has captured the attention and imagination of the private sector, which has made significant contributions to

provide secure job positions and increased quality of training.

As of 2007, more than 3,000 young people have completed basic training, more than 500 youth have completed the intermediate module (network or web design), and another 200 have completed the advanced module (audiovisual). At least 800 of these youth have been hired, and 79 percent of those hired remained in their jobs for more than three months. The project has expanded to encompass specific market-driven trainings to increase youth's access to jobs in areas such as sales, restaurant service, ICT maintenance, tourism, business English, and secretarial techniques.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

PROGRAM FOR REDUCING ABANDONMENT OF CHILDREN

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Save the Children UK–DRC

FUNDING PERIOD

September 2006–September 2009

AMOUNT

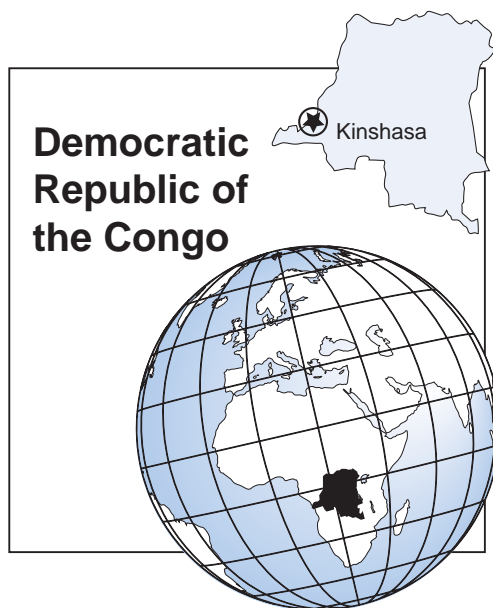
\$3,592,445

PURPOSE

Prevent the abandonment and separation of children in the three zones of Kinshasa, Mbuji-Mayi, and Bukavu and the areas surrounding these population centers.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (SINCE PROJECT INCEPTION)

- Sensitized more than 25,000 religious leaders, parents, children, community members, and decision makers on means of protecting children and ensuring their rights
- Obtained the release of 350 illegally imprisoned children
- Reunited more than 1,100 children with their families
- Worked toward creating an environment wherein it is no longer possible to publicly denounce a “child witch” in Mbuji-Mayi without fear of legal reprisals through sensitization activities and a readiness to bring to trial those responsible for the abuse and maltreatment of children, particularly in cases involving accusations of witchcraft



War and unrest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in the second half of the 1990s led to the displacement of an estimated 1.1 million of the country's inhabitants. Many fled conflict areas for urban centers in central and southern DRC. Rapid increases in urban populations have strained families and communities and contributed to increased poverty and marginalization of the poor, as well as to deterioration of the social and legal structure otherwise in place to protect children separated from parents or appropriate caregivers.

USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund supports Save the Children UK–DRC's Program for Reducing Abandonment of Children, which works in the urban centers of Kinshasa, Mbuji-Mayi, and Bukavu to assist children who have been separated from or abandoned by parents or caregivers as well as children who have suffered abuse or unjust imprisonment. Save the Children UK–DRC works closely with local partners, Community Child Protection Networks, and child support centers in this effort.

At each of the three program sites, Save the Children UK–DRC has identified a local partner organization with the necessary skills to denounce cases of child abuse and mistreatment. Save the Children UK–DRC is also working to develop a cadre of local partners, such as child support

and shelter centers, to reunification children with families or communities.

Following up on work initiated under a previous DCOF-sponsored program, Save the Children UK–DRC is working to restructure existing community networks. These networks of community members provide opportunities for participants to discuss child protection concerns and to identify steps that groups and individuals can take to address incidences of child abandonment or abuse.

Save the Children UK–DRC also conducts activities to educate and sensitize caregivers and community leaders on child protection issues. In Kinshasa, parental discussion groups address issues facing both adult caregivers and children who are providing care for younger siblings, including dialogue within the family, children's rights and needs, and demystification of diseases that cause parents to accuse their children of witchcraft. Discussion groups are also held for community religious leaders.

In addition to working with local organizations to directly assist children and families, Save the Children UK–DRC works with government officials to implement policies and strategies for the protection of children. The program offered technical support in the drafting of the Child Protection Code and is providing financial and logistical support to DRC's National Child Council, the national structure in charge of monitoring children's rights.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR STREET CHILDREN LIVING IN SANTO DOMINGO

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Catholic Relief Services Dominican Republic (prime contractor), with five subgrantees

FUNDING PERIOD

August 2004–February 2008

AMOUNT

\$1,500,000

PURPOSE

Provide vulnerable and displaced children with appropriate high-quality care, protection, and support to improve their quality of life.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (SINCE PROJECT INCEPTION)

- Assisted up to 2,000 children, with more than 400 being back in school and more than 700 being tutored to prepare them for the next school year; more than 600 receiving some type of vocational training, more than 400 having already finished vocational training, and more than 200 seeking employment
- Trained more than 700 families of vulnerable children on how to strengthen family relationships and maintain a healthy relationship with the children who have been reintegrated into the family; offered emotional support to those families as part of family reintegration
- Strengthened the capacities of the five subgrantee NGOs through training and collaboration among the organizations; as an added benefit, saw the NGOs learn to work together to achieve one goal: to assist vulnerable children in their communities

The presence of children living and working in the streets of the Dominican Republic—many of whom come from poor, dysfunctional families—reflects the extreme poverty and lack of social services endemic in many highly populated urban areas throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. For those children, life on the street often means disconnection from the traditional support of caregivers, communities, and the formal education system. Consequently, they are vulnerable to physical, sexual, and verbal abuse; HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases; and drugs. Despite sincere though sporadic efforts on the part of government, civil society, and international organizations, the situation of vulnerable children has not improved. The number of children and youth living and working on the streets of the Dominican Republic remains high.

Project NINA: Improving the Quality of Life for Vulnerable Children Living in the Streets of Santo Domingo brings together government officials, local organizations, and communities to provide coordinated services for vulnerable children. It uses the collective strengths of consortium members to reinforce and improve the sector's overall response to the needs and aspirations of street children. Catholic Relief Services is building the capacity of its five subgrantee partners to provide enhanced, better-coordinated services and to train other local partners in turn.

The five subgrantees work as a consortium, which works closely with the government's Children and Adolescent National Council to implement local policies. In the recent past the consortium signed an agreement with a coalition of NGOs working on children's rights issues. The consortium is coordinating some project activities with UNICEF and the International Labour Organization. The consortium has a strong relationship with surrounding communities and has signed agreements that will benefit children by providing recreational activities during the afternoons to keep those children off the streets. Under those agreements, community and neighborhood groups are receiving training related to children's rights as a collateral benefit for the project.



EL SALVADOR

SOWING HOPE AND FAITH FOR A BETTER FUTURE

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Asociación de Religiosas Carmelitas Terciarias Descalzas de Santa Teresa de Jesús
(Association of Carmelite Nuns of Santa Teresa de Jesús)

AMOUNT

\$150,000

PURPOSE

Provide information about nutrition and hygiene as well as vocational programs for the children of Divina Providencia.

FUNDING PERIOD

September 2005–September 2007

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Opened a children's resource center
- Provided partial support for two teachers and a librarian to assist the children with their studies
- Provided support for commodities, including three computers
- Improved nutrition for all participating children, as measured by height and weight standards from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



El Salvador is still rebuilding its political, economic, and social systems in the aftermath of a 12-year civil war from 1980 to 1992. The lack of a strong infrastructure to support its citizens, combined with a series of devastating natural disasters during the past 10 years—Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and two massive earthquakes in 2001—has placed undue strain on the financial, health, and psychological well-being of El Salvador's citizens.

With assistance from USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, the Asociación de Religiosas Carmelitas Terciarias Descalzas de Santa Teresa de Jesús (Association of Carmelite Nuns of Santa Teresa de Jesús) provides a home for

children who have lost their parents from disease, war, or other causes, as well as for children who are without homes. The home provides shelter for these children and assists them in developing into productive members of society through programs that nurture their nutritional, physical, intellectual, and vocational needs.

Funds from USAID have enabled the association to purchase equipment and to hire a staff to carry out a range of activities for the children. The children learn to grow vegetables and to bake bread to sell to local church parishioners. The home also provides children with opportunities to develop computer skills and artistic abilities.

GEORGIA

REBUILDING LIVES PROJECT

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Save the Children Federation, Inc., with subgrantees Child and Environment (Tbilisi, Chiatura, and Rustavi) and Society Biliki (Gori)

FUNDING PERIOD

September 2004–September 2008

AMOUNT

\$2,937,752

PURPOSE

Strengthen and expand local capacities to promote the physical, cognitive, emotional, psychological, and social well-being of unattended children living and working on the street.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ensured that social services were provided for 450 children and 250 families monthly through a combination of six day care centers, four family support teams, three street outreach services, and one night shelter
- Provided support to the National Child Welfare and Deinstitutionalization Reform; developed the National Minimum Standards for Family Support Services; provided a start-up package (design, setup activities, training, and on-the-job mentoring) for community-based day care services for future child care service providers; and organized a study visit to Poland
- Provided leadership to the multiagency Street Children Working Group, which is dedicated to planning and implementing research on street children and to developing a document outlining strategic recommendations to the government of Georgia on assisting street children
- Trained 80 staff members of local partner NGOs in professional case management and provision of services for children and families, with corresponding indicators and monitoring and evaluation tools; received an official recommendation from the Ministry of Education and Science for a teachers' training program,

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

Psychological Aspects of Teaching, for use in public schools

- Implemented family-focused activities, resulting in a more than 100 percent increase from the first project year in parents' participation in securing sustainable results for the children
- Generated comprehensive community support for project activities, resulting in a notable increase of public-private partnerships with businesses and of cooperation with academic institutions, as well as in increased provision of services by volunteers



Years of socioeconomic strife since Georgia declared independence from the former Soviet Union have left the country unable to care for its scores of vulnerable children. Of the more than 6,500 children living in either government or private institutions, up to 80 percent are placed in institutions because their families lack the means to care for them.

Starting in 2005, the government of Georgia took steps to create a comprehensive child and family welfare reform program, first developing an action plan for child welfare and deinstitutionalization. The plan allowed for the establishment of teams of social workers, the closure or restructuring of residential institutions, and the establishment of

alternative community-based services, including foster care and reintegration programs. Although considerable progress has been made, the availability of social safety net services such as community-based services and social assistance benefits remains limited. And there is a lack of human resource skills at all levels and insufficient focus on prevention. The project works toward filling some of those gaps through four major implementation strategies: (a) providing high-quality social services, (b) reforming policy, (c) building capacity, and (d) increasing public awareness:

The goal of the project is to provide model-quality social services to 450 children and 250 families in four urban localities. The Rebuilding

Lives Project (RLP) is the largest single NGO-implemented initiative in Georgia that focuses on specific children and family groups. The program is one of the few providers of such social services in the country, yet those services are seen by the government as the most important elements of a future network of services that provide an alternative to institutional care.

Another strategy is to engage in policy reform by means of support to the government's child welfare and deinstitutionalization program. Through RLP, Save the Children and its local partner organizations have been key participants in one of Georgia's major reform efforts.

Capacity building for children and families, local implementing partners, community members, and other stakeholders has had many rewards. It has resulted in greater child and family participation in service design and implementation; greater volunteer participation in service delivery; expanded

links with businesses, NGOs, public institutions, and individuals, thus increasing support for the partner organizations and individual beneficiaries; and closer cooperation among partner NGOs, the government, and academic institutions. Through all those elements, the project strengthens and expands local knowledge and the skills base, thus heightening awareness of and creating the means to address the needs of the most vulnerable children in Georgia.

Another means of implementing change is through public awareness activities, which address negative stereotypes and inform the public about existing support for children. The messages were delivered to an estimated 50,000 people through local video debates, roundtable meetings, press conferences, and public events. The project secured wide coverage for its activities through television, radio, newspaper, and electronic media. Special training for local journalists was also conducted.

Displaced Children and Orphans Fund Grant Recipients





RUSSIA

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR STREET CHILDREN PROJECT

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Doctors of the World–USA

FUNDING PERIOD

July 2004–June 2007

AMOUNT

\$1,000,000

PURPOSE

Identify and strengthen alternatives to institutionalization for orphans and unaccompanied children in the form of community- and family-based care.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2006)

- Served 815 children and adolescents in foster families and institutions and at-risk families through drop-in centers
- Improved a halfway house for street and at-risk children and adolescents moving to healthy and stable living environments
- Upgraded an overnight crisis shelter at the Frunzensky drop-in center
- Facilitated the placement of 29 children and adolescents in long- and short-term foster families
- Published and distributed two best practices publications: Guidebook for Foster Parent Training and Handbook for Foster Parents
- Co-drafted a universal mechanism for psychosocial assessment and assistance for children and adolescents living in at-risk families, shelters, or orphanages in St. Petersburg
- Expanded partnerships with public-sector institutions seeking to reform child welfare practices, with potential citywide training of social workers in case management methodology
- Conducted a surveillance study of 310 street children and adolescents in April and May of 2006 in cooperation with the St. Petersburg City AIDS Center, local NGOs, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- followed up on data on epidemic rates of infection
- Provided 43 training programs to staff members of Doctors to Children (a local partner established by Doctors of the World–USA) in service provision and organizational capacity development



Russia's urban centers are experiencing a crisis in the number of children and adolescents on the streets. The collapse of the Russian economy and the erosion of many communist-era social support structures have put enormous burdens on Russian families. Crime and public health problems—including alcohol, substance abuse, and family violence—have grown, forcing many children from their homes and onto the street. Up to 1 million minors may be homeless or spending time on the streets in Russia; some 30,000 street children live in St. Petersburg alone (estimates of the number of street children in St. Petersburg vary widely from as low as 10,000 to

as high as 80,000). Too many Russian children—regardless of the numbers—are abandoned, abused, neglected, or otherwise at risk.

Street children often suffer from substance abuse, behavioral problems, poor health, and delays in social and intellectual development. Many become institutionalized in children's homes, psychiatric facilities, or, eventually, prisons. Few have access to medical and psychosocial services or to alternatives to institutions, such as foster care or assisted independent living. At-risk families have little access to support services to prevent their fragmentation, and foster care is not a well-understood option.

Since 2004, USAID has sponsored Doctors of the World–USA to serve vulnerable children in St. Petersburg, Russia, by facilitating community-based assistance to street children and adolescents, by mobilizing community-based responses to child-related issues, and by raising public awareness to create a supportive environment for family-based care for street and at-risk children and adolescents. This work has focused on six priority areas, each of which is described further: (a) providing drop-in centers and overnight shelter, (b) providing foster family and system support, (c) providing transitional housing for at-risk and street children and adolescents, (d) piloting models and developing the capacity of the local NGO provider, (e) fostering co-implementation with public-sector providers, and (f) documenting and disseminating best practices.

Doctors of the World–USA implemented two drop-in centers for street and at-risk children and adolescents in St. Petersburg that provide health and psychosocial services in a case management framework to approximately 500 clients per year. To meet overnight crises needs, Doctors of the World–USA launched an overnight shelter in January 2007 at its Frunzensky drop-in center—the only center for street children and adolescents to provide low-threshold round-the-clock access to services in the city.

Working with its local partners, Doctors of the World–USA is strengthening the foster care system in St. Petersburg. It has developed unified child and family protection standards, raised awareness of the need for foster parents through a mass media

campaign, developed and implemented a school for foster parents, and provided support during 114 child placements.

To prevent institutionalization or homelessness of children living in neglectful or abusive homes, Doctors of the World–USA renovated a halfway house. Since January 2007, that environment has provided comprehensive support to children and adolescents in their transition to independent living, foster care, or other family-based environments.

In 2001, Doctors of the World–USA established a local partner, Doctors to Children, to foster long-term local capacity to meet the needs of at-risk children in Russia. Doctors of the World–USA co-implements projects with Doctors to Children, transferring management capacity and technical know-how. Doctors to Children's growth as a model service provider expands the country's capacity and commitment to provide innovative, replicable community-based services to vulnerable children and adolescents.

Doctors of the World–USA jointly implements projects with local government partners. Among those projects are public facility provision and maintenance, joint staffing and services, and acquisition of supplies. The group's goal is to transfer operations to government partners after two years.

To develop the capacity of public and private individuals and institutions to serve at-risk children and adolescents, Doctors of the World–USA is documenting and disseminating its service models in a series of best practices publications.

SRI LANKA

NEW BEGINNINGS FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Save the Children UK

FUNDING PERIOD

December 2004–March 2008

AMOUNT

\$1,256,086

PURPOSE

Protect children affected by armed conflict and violence and those affected by the tsunami; assist young people in gaining safe access to family and government support; and enable children's reintegration into community and society.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Reunited 340 children from state homes in southern, western, and northern provinces with families or communities; conducted 1,440 follow-up visits with previously reunified children and 780 home visits for children before reunification; provided 32 families of reunified children with economic support
- Developed and delivered five training modules in presentation skills, positive discipline and positive parenting, family reunification, communication, and work with children to prevent family separations; prevented 76 children from being institutionalized; developed with the probation department methodology for prevention
- Organized 38 training sessions over 69 working days for 760 child protection stakeholders
- Provided 190 families with psychosocial support such as counseling, alcohol prevention, and referral to other services
- Provided emergency relief to 515 children institutionalized in Jaffna as a result of heightened insecurity in late 2006
- Established an alternative care working group along with UNICEF and other key entities, resulting in advocacy meetings with government officials and other organizations working in similar areas on essential care issues
- Developed a standard family reunification methodology replicated in all three provinces

Sri Lanka has a history of institutionalizing children in response to poverty, abuse, or neglect. Families and government child care workers often see institutions as a ready solution to the problems of rearing children under economic, social, and political strain. Institutions are seen to offer better opportunities for education, as well as care and protection for child victims of abuse. Since the tsunami on December 26, 2004, there has been increased interest in supporting children's institutions, despite government statements that children will be institutionalized only as a last resort.

In response, USAID works with Save the Children UK to develop alternatives to institutional care for children in Sri Lanka. The project also works with government and local organizations to improve networking and increase understanding among those entities of referral systems for workers assisting children in need.

A major success witnessed by the project has been the change in the attitudes and behavior of probation officers toward children at risk of separation. Probation officers who were not in favor of the family reunification program at the outset have realized its value and are supportive of family reunification and family-based care. They have even taken initiatives, with support from Save the Children UK staff members, to prevent children from being institutionalized.

The Departments of Probation and Child Care in the three project provinces have agreed to work closely with Save the Children UK in supporting prevention, reunification, and alternative care interventions. Thus, support to the program by relevant authorities at the central and provincial levels has improved radically.

The project has facilitated the formation of village committees to enhance and empower the community to proactively respond to child protection concerns. Additionally, the project has empowered children's Theatre for Development programs. Those programs provide children with opportunities to voice issues that are important to them.



SUDAN

SOUTHERN SUDAN INTERACTIVE RADIO INSTRUCTION

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Educational Development Center Inc.

FUNDING PERIOD

July 2005–June 2009

AMOUNT

\$3,016,972

PURPOSE

Provide children and youth living in three areas of southern Sudan—Southern Kordofan, Southern Blue Nile, and Abyei (collectively known as the “Three Areas”)—with education through collaboration with communities and educational institutions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Broadcast primary grade lessons daily to nearly 40,000 children, including approximately 4,000 pupils in the Three Areas
- Broadcast advanced English programs to 8,000 registered listeners in groups as well as to a large number of casual listeners
- Broadcast programs on both shortwave and FM radio through the facilities of Miraya Radio (nationwide) and Radio Bakhita (Juba)
- Initiated a testing program and administered pretests to primary grades in six locations throughout southern Sudan and the Three Areas
- Completed the design of the school programs; continues to work on sets of lessons plans for all grades
- Designed the basic English program and began to write scripts for radio programs

HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND RECONCILIATION (HEAR)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Creative Associates International Inc.

FUNDING PERIOD

October 2006–September 2009

AMOUNT

\$3,000,000

PURPOSE

Provide access to and raise the quality of primary school education and health services for school-age children in two areas of southern Sudan—Abyei and Southern Blue Nile.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed a Participatory Rapid Assessment (PRA) that will inform project planning and implementation
- Developed the HEAR Teacher Training Design and the Profile of a HEAR Teacher; prepared a teacher training guide, incorporating initial ideas from project partners as well as results of the PRA
- Facilitated teacher training sessions in Abyei; facilitated training for Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) in Abyei under the direction of the HEAR Education Resource Center coordinator
- Participated in forums and workshops organized by other members of the development community
- Organized five-day training sessions for up to 70 teachers in Abyei



The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 between the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement ended more than two decades of civil war in Sudan. Yet even as efforts to rebuild Sudan's infrastructure go forward, famine, disease, and violence continue to threaten the Sudanese people, including an estimated 2 million internally displaced people. Children—many of whom are now orphans, returning refugees, or ex-combatants—are among the most vulnerable, particularly in the southern and eastern provinces of Southern Kordofan, Southern Blue Nile, and Abyei, referred to as the “Three Areas,” where racial and religious differences, lack of resources, and political marginalization present ongoing challenges to reconstruction efforts.

School enrollment in the Three Areas remains among the lowest in Sudan, estimated at between 40 percent and 50 percent. To improve both the availability and quality of education in those provinces, USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund supports two complementary projects. The Southern Sudan Interactive Radio

Instruction (SSIRI) program, implemented by Education Development Center Inc., works with the Southern Sudan Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology to train teachers by means of radio broadcasts. The Learning Village program employs scriptwriters, actors, and field coordinators to develop radio lessons in local languages, English, and mathematics. Teachers are given training and written guidance on how to use the program, and outreach staff members monitor progress. Lessons are highly interactive for both teachers and students.

The Health, Education, and Reconciliation (HEAR) program, implemented by Creative Associates International Inc., works in Abyei and Southern Blue Nile to promote education and health and to strengthen school governance through community groups. The program seeks to build the capacity of education and health workers to plan, implement, and monitor health and education services. It also develops resource materials and community-based projects that reinforce what students are learning and promote good health and hygiene.

THAILAND

SPORTWORKS REFUGEE PROJECT

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

American Refugee Committee International (ARC) and Right to Play (RTP)

FUNDING PERIOD

April 2005–March 2009

AMOUNT

\$1,540,512

PURPOSE

Provide refugee children and youth access to regular and inclusive sport and play to enhance their physical and psychosocial development.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ensured that during the school year up to 6,000 children participated in physical education (PE) on a weekly basis; provided specialized training (ST) weekly for up to 2,900 children within the community
- Organized monthly Play Days, with a focus on Red Ball Child Play games, in Ban Don Yang, Nu Po, and Umpiem Mai for between 50 and 250 children; held Play Days with a health education focus in Ban Don Yang and Nu Po for more than 100 children at each site
- Trained master trainers, coach trainers, and teacher trainers in program management and RTP programs; trained more than 180 ST coaches and 120 PE teachers who are responsible for implementing ST, PE, and Play Day activities
- Constructed multifunction concrete play areas in Nu Po and Umpiem Mai so that sport and play activities can take place all year, even during the wet season

Thailand is host to approximately 140,000 refugees—largely of Karen descent—from Myanmar. The Karen National Union (KNU) has fought a civil war with the ruling governments in Burma (now Myanmar) since the Karen declared their independence in the late 1940s. The KNU has yet to sign a cease-fire agreement with the government and many Karen are displaced within Myanmar.

The refugee situation in Thailand is unique because the country is not a signatory to the United Nations Refugee Convention. Camps are largely controlled by the Thai government, and refugees live under strict rules prohibiting them from entering or leaving the camps. Camp life has been extremely difficult for the population because social pressures in the refugee camps often interfere with cultural beliefs. Children in particular face extraordinary barriers to their physical and psychosocial development. Sport and play provide children and youth with opportunities to overcome those barriers to development.

RTP first began implementing the Sport-Works Refugee Program in Thailand in June 2002. ARC brings primary health care services to the partnership. The project is now implementing

sport and play activities in four refugee camps in Thailand, along the border between Thailand and Myanmar. There, the project trains camp members to conduct structured sport and play activities for children and youth. Staff members provide weekly training and capacity building for volunteers and teachers.

The project aims to provide all children in the camps—including girls and children with disabilities—with life, leadership, and communication skills, as well as a sense of discipline and fair play.



UGANDA

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND DIALOGUE

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

FUNDING PERIOD

September 2002–August 2007

AMOUNT

\$12,431,116

PURPOSE

Assist war-affected children in northern and western Uganda by rebuilding traditional community and family structures as well as by fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Assisted more than 11,500 survivors of human trafficking, including 696 abducted children who were reunited with their families, and 593 youth who were given educational assistance
- Organized and conducted dialogue and mediation meetings in Gulu, Pader, and Kitgum through the Community Resilience and Dialogue (CRD)–funded Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative, together with local chiefs, the Uganda Peoples Defence Force (UPDF), district leaders, and other stakeholders; held discussions with more than 100 persons about poor relations between civilians and the UPDF and voiced concern for the increasing reports of violence perpetrated by the UPDF and Local Defence Units
- Developed and disseminated a training of trainers manual for community sensitization and mobilization in collaboration with War Child Holland, Caritas, and UNICEF; saw the manual being used to further raise awareness on psychosocial and protection issues—especially on reunified children who had been abducted and adult returnees—while improving existing sensitization activities through standardization
- Completed an intensive 12-month training for 60 local staff members of NGO partners

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- in counseling and other caregiver services; received appreciation and positive feedback from all local partner staff members who attended the trainings and felt that their work would improve as a result
- Assisted the CRD-funded Savings and Loan Associations (SLA) methodology in establishing itself in western Uganda; saw, as a result, that by the end of September 2006, CRD local partners had 171 SLA groups at different stages of formation, with membership approaching 5,000 persons, and that their membership and savings have already improved the lives of many families, especially women and children (approximately one-third of SLA members are men)
 - Enhanced the sustainability of the activity after the project's end by developing a local partner network to continue to provide livelihood and counseling services to conflict-affected communities in western Uganda



Although it is considered one of the most stable countries in Africa, Uganda suffers from rebel uprisings that have caused massive displacement in several parts of the country. The largest insurgency comes from the Lord's Resistance Army, whose 20 years of attacks on the civilian population in Acholiland in the north have caused the destruction of physical and social infrastructures. The result has been long-term displacement and the breakdown of the relationships that have held society together for generations.

Abductions, forced marriages, and guerrilla activity against citizens have weakened the institution of the family. Extended residence in camps for internally displaced persons has broken down respect for community tradition. Socioeconomic hardship and the erosion of traditional practices have undermined the authority of village elders.

Similar conditions existed in the Rwenzori region of western Uganda, where the Allied Democratic Forces have wreaked havoc on local populations. The West Nile region in the north-

western corner of the country has also suffered from insurgency and displacement, compounded by the influx of thousands of Sudanese refugees fleeing the long-running civil war in their country. Karamoja, in the northeastern region, suffers from pastoral conflicts stemming from competition for scarce land and water resources, cattle raiding, and the proliferation of small arms.

Under those conditions of conflict, displacement, and the breakdown of family and community structures, HIV/AIDS is a present and growing threat in all four geographic areas.

USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund supports the Community Resilience and Dialogue program to assist abducted children, former child soldiers, child mothers, and internally displaced families in returning to normal com-

munity life and to provide them with vocational training and HIV/AIDS awareness education. The CRD grant represents an amalgam of different USAID funding sources to Uganda, including the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Victims of Torture Fund, USAID/Uganda Mission funds, and Trafficking in Persons funds. Through IRC, the project is funding a consortium of NGOs working in Uganda's four key geographic regions. Those regions were chosen not only because they are affected by conflict and HIV/AIDS, but also because they suffer historically from exclusion by the central government. IRC partners in this effort include Save the Children in Uganda, CARE International, Catholic Relief Services, and Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (Voluntary Association for International Service).

UKRAINE

FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Holt International Children's Services

FUNDING PERIOD

September 2004–September 2008

AMOUNT

\$2,479,790

PURPOSE

Develop sustainable and replicable family care models of services for children who otherwise would be institutionalized or on the street.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established model programs on family preservation in the pilot sites
- Trained 92 regional trainers on foster care in collaboration with the Ministry of Family, Youth, and Sports
- Developed and tested practical guidelines on foster care (Families for Children Program Child Welfare Task Force), which were reviewed and approved by the ministry to be used countrywide
- Conducted two adoption surveys, whose findings were used to improve the adoption process and develop a national strategy to build a strong and transparent adoption system
- Established foster care services for HIV-positive children
- Supported 78 grant projects, which reported the following:
 - Enrolled 9,155 people, including decision makers, service providers, parents, and children, in training activities
 - Addressed the issue of vulnerable children and families with 16,067 media appearances (publications, television and radio programs)
 - Developed 188 products (booklets, posters, films)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- Conducted 207 community events
- Established 23 community groups
- Provided 1,200 children and 727 families with psychosocial support services
- Prevented 342 cases of child abandonment



As with many countries of the former Soviet Union, Ukraine's rapid social, economic, and political changes have brought a serious crisis in the number of children living outside family care. Orphanages are full, and increasing numbers of children are forced to live on the streets. According to Ukraine's Ministry of Family, Youth, and Sports Affairs, as many as 100,000 children are living without the care and protection of a family.

The government's current system for caring for vulnerable children is essentially inherited from the Soviet era. Until recently, large child care institutions remained the primary care option for Ukraine's abused or abandoned children. Efforts

to reform the system have proved moderately successful, but alternative approaches and services to assist children and families in crisis have been slow to develop.

To provide the foundation for sustainable, replicable family and child welfare services in Ukraine, the USAID-funded Families for Children Program, implemented by Holt International, is developing programs for family preservation, domestic adoption, and foster care. Tailored pilot programs were initially launched in five sites representing the Kyiv, Cherkassy, and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts. At the request of the Ministry of Family, Youth, and Sports, the Families for Children Program was

expanded to the Donetsk and Odessa oblasts by adding a pilot site in each location.

A series of community family care workshops brought together local and regional government agencies and NGOs to identify the needs of individual communities and to discuss steps to strengthen and expand existing social services and introduce family-based alternatives to institutional care. The workshops helped improve communication and collaboration between different sectors, such as health care, social services, education, and child protection, and initiated a dialogue between the public sector and civil society.

A significant change in attitudes has been observed among the workshop participants. They came to understand the impact of institutional care on child development; acknowledged the need to revise work practices with families in crisis and children at risk; became open to the idea of mainstreaming children with special needs, including HIV-affected children; and voiced agreement for the need to develop a continuum of integrated family-centered services that will have a strong emphasis on prevention. The workshop participants from each pilot site developed an action plan and elected a local coordinating council to provide oversight of action plan implementation.

Regional and local child welfare service providers from the Families for Children Program pilot regions participated in a comprehensive training program designed by the Families for Children

Program to enhance knowledge and improve practical skills in working with families and children. To strengthen the capacity of service providers to deliver quality services, the Families for Children Program conducted a series of study tours and internships in Romania and the United States. The program provided technical assistance and training to service providers and local officials to assist them in implementing sound family-centered, child-focused, and community-based services.

The Families for Children Program has used the grant program's flexible mechanisms to maximize the benefits for the pilot communities. On the one hand, Families for Children Program continued to use open competitions to stimulate innovative programs and services that address needs in the pilot communities. But on the other hand, it used special-purpose and quick-start partnership grants to build up and strengthen vital existing programs. The grant program has supported the creation, strengthening, and sustainability of family-based care components, such as family preservation, adoption, and foster care models.

Helping local agencies and organizations effectively communicate and raise awareness about these issues and services is another important program goal. Holt International has been working with community organizations to build their marketing and public relations capacities and to equip them to use mass media to generate interest and recruit adoptive or foster families.

VIETNAM

INCLUSION OF VIETNAMESE WITH DISABILITIES

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

FUNDING PERIOD

October 2005–September 2008

AMOUNT

\$2,383,856

PURPOSE

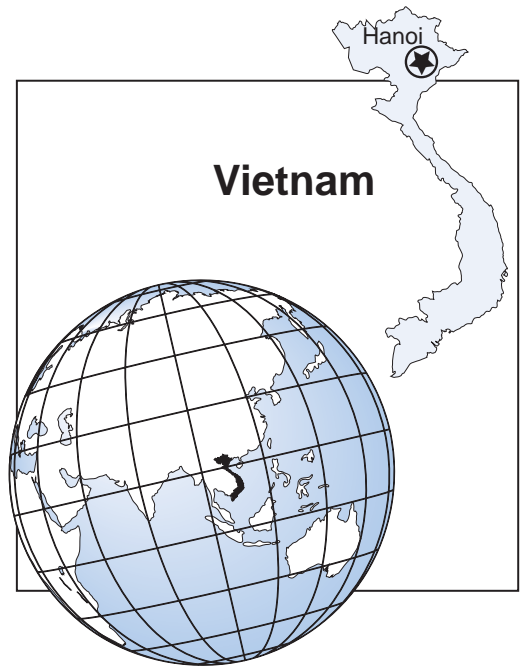
Develop a comprehensive model of education and vocational training for children and youth with disabilities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2007)

- Included 1,150 children with disabilities in educational activities in Ninh Binh and Quang Nam provinces; included 1,461 parents, teachers, community members, and education officials as indirect participants
- Provided central-level trainings and workshops for 470 participants, including provincial education officials from all 64 provinces
- Established six pilot associations of parents of children with disabilities; trained 270 parents, teachers, and community leaders on basic knowledge of disabilities
- Enrolled 195 young people with disabilities in community-based vocational training, with 82 of them completing vocational training and working in full-time jobs or engaging in home-based businesses
- Held peer group meetings with 80 people with disabilities in Ninh Binh and 103 in Quang Nam participating regularly
- Launched a new project component, Information Technology Training for People with Disabilities, which accomplished the following:
 - Enrolled 29 students in the first software engineering class
 - Launched a second software engineering class with 26 students, half of whom were female

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- Guided 13 students with vision impairments through a three-month part-time information technology (IT) class, with all graduates having the ability to use a computer; launched a second class in August 2007
- Received five employment opportunities for students in the software engineering program
- Provided benefits to more than 4,000 people with disabilities through the program as of September 2007; trained 4,500 service providers



Vietnam's rapid economic and technological advances may be bypassing as many as 10 million of its citizens—those living with disabilities. Up to 90 percent of those individuals live in rural areas; less than 60 percent can earn a living. Those individuals who do have jobs work in marginal industries, selling lottery tickets, operating motorbike taxis, or producing handicrafts to sell on the street. Data from a 2006 survey conducted by Catholic Relief Services indicate that more than 90 percent of young adults with disabilities in the northern province

of Ninh Binh and the south-central province of Quang Nam are unemployed.

In 2005, USAID's War Victims Fund began funding Catholic Relief Services in its work to provide people with disabilities access to educational and employment opportunities. CRS teamed with subgrantee World Concern Development Organization in developing a comprehensive model of educational and vocational training for children and youth with disabilities in the two Vietnamese provinces of Ninh Binh and Quang Nam. CRS is also working with the Ministry of Education

and Training and with the National Coordinating Council on Disability to mainstream inclusion of people with disabilities in the educational curriculum, laws, and regulations nationwide.

An additional project component, Information Technology Training for People with Disabilities, began in February 2007 and builds on CRS's prior experience in the field. For this component, CRS works with the Hanoi College of Information Technology to establish an Information Technology Training Program for people with disabilities. CRS envisions that the center will be a model for specialized training, support, and quality training opportunities across Vietnam. CRS projects that the program will be

fully sustainable within two years of its creation. In addition to providing students with disabilities with the same high-quality computer training received by nondisabled students, the program provides specialized adaptive training appropriate to the nature of the student's disability (sight, hearing, or mobility impairment); assistance with job placement; and social counseling.

Among the IT program's initial accomplishments is the successful completion of the first three-month IT class for the visually impaired. Thirteen students participated. The class was taught by a specialist in software for the visually impaired, Hoang Moc Kien, who is blind. A second class of 13 students began in August 2007.

ZAMBIA

AFRICA KIDSAFE ALLIANCE FOR STREET CHILDREN

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Project Concern International (PCI)

FUNDING PERIOD

December 2004–September 2010

AMOUNT

\$2,765,781

PURPOSE

Consolidate and expand a safety net of NGOs and community-based organizations to effectively meet the immediate and long-term needs of children who are living on the street and are otherwise vulnerable.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (SINCE PROJECT INCEPTION)

- Provided more than 2,300 orphans and vulnerable children with food and opportunities for education and vocational training each day through the network partners; provided nearly 400 of those children with shelter, counseling, medical care, and other material support at centers
- Contacted more than 400 children living on the streets on a regular basis by means of an interagency KidSAFE outreach team established in 2005
- Provided more than 1,000 street children with medical care on the streets through a newly initiated mobile health service made possible through the private donation of a van
- Reintegrated 329 children with their families
- Trained 142 child care workers in basic child care qualifications
- Developed a database of children in the centers and on the streets, which assists in the development of an individualized development plan for the child, including efforts to reintegrate the child with his or her family or other community setting, and in the identification of the most appropriate short-term placement options for the child (more than 100 children are currently entered)
- Instituted weekly case review meetings to discuss 12 to 15 child cases with the outreach

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- team, mobile health team, PCI/MCDSS reintegration officer, and others to determine specific plans for follow-up for each child, including referral or reintegration plans
- Developed a comprehensive life skills training curriculum, including video and facilitators guide, based on a drama developed and acted by street children; trained 12 trainers and provided a 10-module workshop for 75 children at five centers
 - Expanded the KidSAFE network to include additional partners in Lusaka and new partners in Kabwe, Ndola, and Kitwe
 - Promoted private-sector involvement through sponsorship and training opportunities, including the KidSAFE children's soccer league, which was launched in 2006, and a center-based bakery initiative in coordination with National Milling Corporation
 - Trained KidSAFE partner staff on conducting street outreach, family tracing and reintegration, psychosocial support, program management, advocacy, community mobilization, microfinance, and social entrepreneurship

Zambia is at the epicenter of a catastrophic global increase in the number of orphaned and vulnerable children. High levels of poverty in the country are destroying families and the extended family systems that have traditionally cared for vulnerable children.

Orphaned or other vulnerable children, particularly those from poor households, have no option but to turn to the streets to support themselves, their siblings, or their families. Poverty and economic hardship in the home, frequently linked to parental mortality, is the primary “push” factor causing children to become street active.

Less important but still significant push factors in Zambia are neglect or abuse in the home and a lack of opportunity for schooling, other training, or income generation. A significant proportion of children on the streets are there because they are feeling pressure from peers, avoiding school, being drawn to the opportunity to make money and live independently, or experiencing drug addiction.

The number of children on the streets in Zambia has increased significantly since the first cases were recognized in the 1990s—and particularly in the past 10 years. Between 6,400 and 15,400 children sleep or spend unsupervised time on the

streets, and many more children are at risk of moving to the streets because of extreme vulnerability in the home.

Children on the street are less likely to attend school, and they are exposed to violence; to physical, sexual, and verbal abuse; and to other threats to their physical health, including substance abuse. The need to support themselves makes street children more likely to engage in high-risk behaviors, leaving them vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. For most of those children, their emotional well-being—their sense of identity, of self-worth, and of being important members of society—also suffers greatly through life on the streets. Without assistance, the future security of these children is seriously jeopardized, a cycle of poverty and vulnerability is perpetuated, and the productivity and viability of future generations and of society overall are threatened.

Since 2004, USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund has supported Africa KidSAFE, a network of local organizations formed by Project Concern International and Fountain of Hope to provide street- and facility-based support to children who spend all or part of their days or nights on the streets.

The KidSAFE network currently includes 16 active implementing organizations, with participation from numerous local NGOs and community-based organizations and regular input from government ministries. Through KidSAFE, PCI works with those partners to identify and support children on the streets, to reunite children living on the streets with their families when feasible and desirable, or to refer those children to other secure community-based living arrangements where their physical, emotional, and developmental needs can be met. Increasingly, the network has been working to prevent other children from ending up on the streets by strengthening the capacity of families to care for them.



FUNDING GUIDELINES

The following information provides general guidance, not definitive criteria, for organizations interested in applying for funding from the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund. Please refer to the Funding Guidelines section of USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund website at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/the_funds/fund_guides.html for more detailed information.

GRANTEES

DCOF's projects are, for the most part, implemented through grants and cooperative agreements awarded to domestic, foreign, and international nongovernmental organizations. To be considered for a grant or cooperative agreement, an organization must first register with USAID's Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/private_voluntary_cooperation/reg.html or secure the equivalent recognition in its country of origin.

DECISION PROCESS

Organizations interested in being considered for an unsolicited grant or cooperative agreement through DCOF must first submit a concept paper or proposal (see Proposals). Please note that submission of a proposal does not guarantee receipt of a grant or cooperative agreement. All proposals are evaluated on the basis of a prescribed set of selection criteria (see Selection Criteria) and are considered

only if funding is available and the USAID mission supports the concept.

PROPOSALS

Proposals for programs may be either solicited or unsolicited.

Solicited Proposals. Solicited proposals are submitted in response to a solicitation that has been issued by USAID in the form of an Annual Program Statement (APS), a Request for Application (RFA), or a Request for Proposal (RFP). Information on solicitations pertaining to a specific country can be obtained through the local USAID mission. All open APSs, RFAs, and RFPs are listed at FedGrants (<http://www.grants.gov>), the government-wide portal for grant opportunities. Guidelines for what should be contained in the proposal are outlined in the solicitation.

Unsolicited Proposals. Unsolicited concept papers can be submitted to USAID missions or to the DCOF manager at the address listed on the inside back cover of this publication. USAID strongly recommends that organizations submit a concept paper before investing in the preparation of a formal proposal. Concept papers should be no more than five pages and should include (a) an explanation of the proposed activity or activities and anticipated outcomes for the children, (b) the country or countries that will benefit from the activity, (c) the time frame during which the activity will take place, (d) the proposed imple-

menting partners, and (e) the total estimated cost of the activity.

SELECTION CRITERIA

DCOF provides funding for a variety of activities that aid and promote effective care, protection, and support for children who are orphaned, are separated from their families, or are otherwise especially vulnerable.

The target population includes such groups as children affected by armed conflict, street children, and children who are at risk of being separated or who have already been separated from their families or other appropriate caregivers. DCOF looks for proposals that provide clear, well-articulated, and, preferably, evidence-based approaches and methodologies that accomplish one or more of the following:

- Strengthen mechanisms and policies to document, trace, and reunify with families unaccompanied and separated children.
- Strengthen the resilience and capacity of families and communities to care for and protect children, to prevent the separation of children from the family, and to reintegrate children into the family and community.
- Increase access to and improve quality of appropriate educational opportunities for highly vulnerable children.
- Develop the skills of children and strengthen their natural resilience to allow them to successfully progress from adolescence to adulthood.
- Improve the well-being of children in families and communities by increasing

the economic capacities of youth, families, and communities.

- Strengthen the capacity of local organizations to promote appropriate care and protection of children who lack adequate family care.
- Strengthen mechanisms to prevent institutionalization and to promote appropriate deinstitutionalization of children.

In addition, DCOF highly values programmatic principles of (a) community support, (b) cultural appropriateness, and (c) monitoring and reporting.

When appropriate, proposals should describe how targeted communities will be selected for inclusion and how they will be strengthened by the proposed intervention. Proposed approaches should also reflect a well-grounded awareness of the political, social, and cultural environment as well as of the targeted population. Finally, proposals should include process and impact indicators, as well as methodology to demonstrate progress, outcome, and effects of interventions.

FUNDING

After the award of a grant or cooperative agreement, funds from DCOF are usually transferred to USAID's overseas missions, where the details of the grant or cooperative agreement are negotiated and managed. When circumstances preclude such an arrangement (e.g., countries with no USAID mission, multiple-country projects), programs are managed directly from USAID's Office of Democracy and Governance in Washington, D.C.

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Programs Funded by Displaced Children and Orphans Fund 1988-2006 (In thousands of \$US)

Country	1988-99	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
Afghanistan	0			1,000		1,000	1,800	535	4,335
Albania	100								100
Angola	9,648	800	3,643	1,500	1,000	1,000		500	18,091
Azerbaijan	0					1,000			1,000
Belarus	0					729		600	1,329
Bolivia	620								620
Brazil	5,975	900	898	900	500	500	920	891	11,484
Burkina Faso	0			500					500
Cambodia	0					59			59
Chechnya	0						100		100
Colombia	140							800	940
Congo (DROC)	1,130	80	1,005	2,410		1,000	2,400	2,000	10,025
Congo (ROC)	0		302	350	622	250			1,524
Dominican Republic	0					535	599		1,134
El Salvador	2,235						150		2,385
Eritrea	600								600
Ethiopia	3,173	500	896		500				5,069
Georgia	0					1,048		1,500	2,548
Guatemala	3,800							129	3,929
Haiti	0						992		992
Indonesia	2,280	1,000		668	500			250	4,698
Kenya	0	1,230	100						1,330
Lebanon	1,000								1,000
Liberia	4,807	750	500		527				6,584
Madagascar	755								755
Malawi	2,339	500							2,839
Mozambique	7,177								7,177
Nepal	800							700	1,500
Nicaragua	1,400								1,400
Peru	820		150	200	200				1,370
Philippines	300								300
Rwanda	6,322			1,000	318			150	7,790
Sierra Leone	1,500	500	1,750	840	350				4,940
South Africa	0	750							750
Sri Lanka	1,650	700	300	300	300	300	300		3,850
Sudan	159		500					1,400	2,059
Swaziland	61								61
Thailand	600					766		350	1,716
Uganda	5,675		884	1,187	855	800	1,000	1,500	11,901
Ukraine	0						1,064	750	1,814
Vietnam	11,970	1,500	2,494	506	1,300	800	500	500	19,570
Former Yugoslavia	3,550			131					3,681
Zambia	1,850	1,000	20			681	1,035	550	5,136
Peace Corps	901								901
Tech. Assistance	4,103	790	329	508	350	1,462	544	2,684	10,770
Tech. Initiative	0				4,608		500	4,214	9,322
TOTAL	87,440	11,000	13,771	12,000	11,930	11,930	11,904	20,003	179,978

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